

P. 86. *Tigisoma lineatum* (Gm.) ought to be termed *T. braziliense* (Lin.).

The European species of *Nycticorax* should be called *N. griseus* (Lin.). The specific name *gardeni* was originally given to the nearly allied American species, after Dr. Garden of South Carolina.

P. 88. *Aramus scolopaceus* (Gm.) was called *Scolopax guarauna* by Linnæus, and should therefore bear the latter specific name.

*Glottis chloropus* (Nils.) should be called *G. canescens* (Gm.), being the *Scolopax canescens* of the latter author.

P. 93. The word *ferus* was first used as a specific name for the Wild Goose by Stephens, not by Gmelin, and is therefore subsequent to Meyer's name *cinereus*.

The Wild Swan should be termed *Olor musicus* (Bechst.), as Linnæus did not distinguish it specifically by the name of *ferus*. It may be further remarked, that the characters which distinguish *Olor* of Wagler from *Cygnus* are far too unimportant for generic separation.

P. 94. *Pæcilonitta* should be written *Pæcilonetta*.

The original type of the genus *Querquedula* (Briss.), Steph., is clearly the Garganey (*Anas querquedula*, Lin., *Cyanopterus circia* (Lin.), Eyton), and not the Teal (*Anas crecca*, Lin.). But would it not be better to follow Stephens in uniting the Teals and Garganeys in one genus, *Querquedula*?

P. 96. The specific name *leucocephala*, Scop., is prior to *mersa*, Pall.

*Mergus castor*, Lin., should be called *M. merganser*, Lin., as the former synonym applied to the female, while the latter name was given to the adult male.

P. 98. Those who adopt Mœhring's genus *Uria* should retain for its type the specific name *grylle*, Lin. But as I consider that Mœhring's work is beyond the pale of the binomial nomenclature, I adopt Stephens's name of *Grylle scapularis*.

Buffon's Pl. Enl. 993 represents the *Thalassidroma oceanica* (Forst.), not *T. pelagica* (Lin.).

P. 100. *Gygis candida* (Forst.) was first published by Sparrman under the name of *Sterna alba*, and the latter specific name ought therefore to prevail.

P. 101. The name *Onocrotalus*, Briss., should be cancelled as a mere synonym of *Pelecanus*, Lin., and a new generic name should be given to the *Pelecanus thagus* of Molina.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

DR. MARTIN BARRY ON FIBRE.

Dr. Barry requests us to add the following, in connexion with his Memoir on Fibre, an abstract of which is given at p. 502.

The "white substance of the nervous fibre," surrounding Remak's "band-like axis," consists of filaments having the remarkable structure above described, and often curiously interlaced with one another, as though each of them had a spiral direction. In examining

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the substance of the optic, olfactory, and auditory nerves, as well as that of the brain and spinal chord, Dr. Barry employed for the most part such as had been preserved in spirit; and, besides using extremely minute portions, he very often avoided adding any covering whatever, the weight of thin mica itself being sufficient to rupture or to flatten this delicate substance, and thus entirely prevent its structure from being seen. In the parts last mentioned, he finds red discs, which pass first into rings, and then into spirals. In fasciculi from the spinal chord, and surrounded by spiral filaments, he met with a "band-like axis," which perhaps corresponds to that of Remak in the nerves: but if so, Dr. Barry's observations go farther even than Remak's. The "axis" described by this observer was found by him to be susceptible of division into filaments. So also is the one described by Dr. Barry. But the latter adds, that each filament is a compound object, which enlarges, and, from analogy, may contain the elements of future structures, formed by division and subdivision, to which no limits can be assigned. The spermatozoa, mentioned in the abstract, were from the epididymis of a person who had died suddenly. The depression noticed in their discoid extremity—corresponding apparently to the "sugient orifice" of some authors—is probably analogous to the source of new substance in other discs. In these examinations, Dr. Barry has generally added to the objects dilute spirit (sp. gr. about 0.940), containing about  $\frac{1}{200}$ th of corrosive sublimate. Spirals from the leaf-stalk of the strawberry, after the addition of this reagent, were seen to have divided into parallel filaments having the same structure as those above described. Flax presented a quadruple coil of such filaments. In early states of voluntary muscle also, there were seen double and quadruple coils, evidently produced by the same means—division. Dr. Barry compares the appearance of the vegetable "dotted duct," in its several stages, with that of objects found in mould, in the cornea, in the crystalline lens, and in voluntary muscle; all of which are produced by associations of minute spiral threads. The distribution of the remarkable filaments above described is so universal, that they are found in silk, in the incipient feather, in hair, in the feather-like objects from the wing of the butterfly and gnat, and in the spider's web.

Dr. Barry informs us that he has had the opportunity of showing to several physiologists the principal appearances described in his memoir on fibre. And Professor Owen permits him to state, that he has exhibited to him spirals in voluntary muscle,—muscular "fibrillæ" having a flat, grooved, and compound form,—the filamentous structure of the "white substance in nervous fibre,"—the vegetable spiral becoming double by division,—a coiled filament within red blood-discs,—and the incipient unwinding of the coil in coagulating blood.